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# **Minidoka North Side RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

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## **Introduction**

This set of draft RMP Goals and Objectives is being prepared as part of the RMP alternatives development and analysis process for the Minidoka North Side area. The draft Goals and Objectives were derived from: (1) the public involvement process (especially Ad Hoc Work Group discussions and clarification related to pertinent issues outlined in the Problem Statement); (2) ongoing coordination with Reclamation decision-makers regarding the scope of the RMP and Reclamation's mission/authority related to RMP preparation and implementation; (3) findings of the RMP resource inventory; and (4) input from specialists on the RMP Planning Team. These draft Goals and Objectives are intended to communicate the current direction of the RMP in terms of management philosophy, RMP requirements and approach, and potential areas for management action; they reflect the full range of issues and opportunities which must be addressed in the RMP (as presented and discussed in the separate Problem Statement document).

In many cases (i.e., where the broad direction of the RMP is clear and not subject to dispute or analysis of alternative approaches), the draft Goals and Objectives contained herein are expected to remain in their present form as part of the final RMP. This is particularly true of the goal statements and most objectives that are not facility specific. These Goals and Objectives will serve as a framework for development and analysis of the more detailed alternative plans. They will be used as criteria by which the acceptability and success of alternative courses of action will be assessed.

In some cases, however, the objectives presented in this document may be temporary, and therefore may change as a result of the RMP alternatives analysis process. Basically, the objectives are intended to guide the development of RMP alternatives. Thus, this document should be used as an interactive part of the RMP alternatives development and analysis process and will be modified through that process.

The RMP will also be governed by a number of legal mandates, all of which will serve as guidance in both interpreting the Goals and Objectives and implementing proposed management actions. The primary among these are listed below:

Law, Executive Order, or Policy	Description
American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978	Provides for freedom of Native Americans to believe, express, and exercise their traditional religion, including access to important sites.
Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979, as amended	Ensures the protection and preservation of archaeological sites on Federal land. ARPA requires that Federal permits be obtained before cultural resource investigations begin on Federal land. It also requires that investigators consult with the appropriate Native American groups before conducting archaeological studies on Native American origin sites.
Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974	Provides for the preservation of historical buildings, sites, and objects of national significance.
Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1974, as amended*	Provides for protection of water quality.
Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970	Provides for protection of air quality.
Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended	Provides for protection of plants, fish, and wildlife that have a designation as threatened or endangered.
Executive Order 12898, February 11, 1994, Environmental Justice, as amended by Executive Order 12948, January 30, 1995	Requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of its programs and policies on minority and lower income populations.
Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands	Directs all Federal agencies to avoid, if possible, adverse impacts to wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands.
Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites, May 24, 1996	Provides for access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands used by Indian religious practitioners.
Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Government, November 6, 2000 (revokes EO 13084)	The EO builds on previous administrative actions and is intended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications.</li> <li>• Strengthen government- to-government relations with Indian tribes; and</li> <li>• Reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribes.</li> </ul>
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) of 1958	Requires consultation and coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Indian Trust Assets Policy (July 1993)	Reclamation will carry out its activities in a manner which protects Indian Trust Assets and avoids adverse impacts when possible.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended	Provides protection for bird species that migrate across state lines.

Law, Executive Order, or Policy	Description
Executive Order 13186, January 10, 2001. Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds	Requires Federal Agencies that may have a negative effect on migratory birds to develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to promote the conservation of migratory birds.
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969	Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA specify that as part of the NEPA scoping process, the lead agency "... shall invite the participation of affected Federal, State, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribe, ... (1501.7[a]1."
National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended	Section 106 of the NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of any actions or programs on historic properties. It also requires agencies to consult with Native American Tribes if a proposed Federal action may affect properties to which they attach religious and cultural significance. Section 110 requires agencies to identify and appropriately manage historic properties on lands under their jurisdiction.
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990	Regulations for Tribal consultation in the event of discovery of Native American graves. Requires consultation with Tribes during Federal project planning if graves might be discovered.
Presidential Memorandum: Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments, April 29, 1994	Specifies a commitment to developing more effective day-to-day working relationships with sovereign Tribal governments. Each executive department and agency shall consult to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, with Tribal governments prior to taking actions affecting Federally recognized Tribal governments.
Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities – Reclamation Policy (November 18, 1998)	Established a Pacific Northwest regional policy to assure that all administrative offices, facilities, services, and programs open to the public, utilized by Federal employees, and managed by Reclamation, a managing partner, or a concessionaire, are fully accessible for both employees and the public.
Reclamation Policy for Land Management & Concessions	Provides policy, directives, and standards Reclamation follows in managing Federal Project lands, facilities, and concessions.
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504	Provides for access to Federal or Federally assisted facilities for the disabled. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) or the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), whichever is the more stringent, are followed as compliance with Section 504.
Public Law 102-575, Title 28, as amended	Provides Reclamation with the authority to cost-share on recreation projects and fish and wildlife enhancement facilities with public non-Federal managing partners on Reclamation lands and authorization for preparing RMPs.
Interior Department Manual Part 512, Chapter 2	Articulates the policy, responsibilities and procedures for consulting with tribes to identify and assess impact to Indian trust resources.

\*A permit may need to be required for construction related activities.

## RMP Policy and Purpose

Reclamation's resource management policy is to provide a broad level of stewardship to ensure and encourage resource protection, conservation, and multiple use, as appropriate. Management practices and principles established in an RMP must be consistent with Project purposes and in accordance with existing Federal laws, regulations, and policies, and provide for the protection of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources; cultural resources; public health and safety; and applicable uses of Reclamation lands and water areas, public access, and outdoor recreation. Resource Management Plans are intended to be used as the basis for directing activities on Reclamation lands and reservoirs in a way that maximizes overall public and resource benefits while providing guidance for managing the area during the next 15 year period. Through implementation of an RMP, Reclamation aims to balance competing and conflicting demands for differing uses and to maximize compatibility with surrounding land uses, while affording an appropriate level of resource protection and enhancement.

## Draft Goals & Objectives

As stated and shown in the above table the RMP will be governed by a number of legal mandates, all of which will serve as guidance in both interpreting the goals and objectives and implementing proposed management actions. In all cases, implementation of the draft goals and objectives listed below, and any specific management actions resulting from them, will comply with the applicable legal mandates in the above table.

### Land Use & Management (LUM)

***GOAL LUM 1: Ensure that Project purposes are not restricted or impacted as a result of other uses and activities.***

**Objective LUM 1.1:** For safety and security reasons, require that Minidoka Dam and the security area surrounding the dam remain closed to public access.

**Objective LUM 1.2:** Protect access to and use of material extraction sites on Reclamation lands to allow for the continued extraction and/or storage of sand, gravel, and rock for the purpose of Irrigation District and Reclamation construction activities.

**Objective LUM 1.3:** Ensure that easements and crossing agreements issued to private and public entities do not interfere with Project operation and maintenance.

**Objective LUM 1.4:** Address and resolve unauthorized access-related conflicts pertaining to Reclamation canal roads.

**Objective LUM 1.5:** Ensure through the permitting process that Reclamation facilities are not impacted by new construction of stormwater run-off facilities which pipe stormwater directly into Project drains.

**GOAL LUM 2: *Provide direction on the use or disposal of Reclamation property.***

**Objective LUM 2.1:** Within authorities and compatible with Project purposes, natural and cultural resource protection, and land management needs, allow suitable parcels to be transferred or disposed.

**GOAL LUM 3: *Engage and work cooperatively with other agencies to manage resources, uses, and activities on appropriate Reclamation lands.***

**Objective LUM 3.1:** Renegotiate formal Reclamation/IDFG agreements for IDFG management of specific parcels. [see NAT 1.7].

**Objective LUM 3.2:** Continue agreements and cooperative working relationships with Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the management of Lake Walcott State Park and Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge (respectively), and where appropriate and feasible on other nearby Reclamation lands. [see REC 1.1 and 1.2]

**GOAL LUM 4: *Ensure protection of the public, facilities, and public resource values on Reclamation lands and alleviate conflicts with adjacent lands.***

**Objective LUM 4.1:** Pursue agreements with other Federal and local agencies as the primary enforcement entities to ensure an adequate level of law enforcement on Reclamation lands (e.g., law enforcement at Bishop's Hole by USFWS and/or IDPR).

**Objective LUM 4.2:** Consider means of more efficiently implementing law enforcement on Reclamation lands.

**Objective LUM 4.3:** Develop and implement a comprehensive fire management plan to address public safety-related concerns, as well as efforts that would enhance the natural resource values of RMP lands. [see NAT 1.6].

**Objective LUM 4.4:** Eliminate existing trespass/encroachments on, and unauthorized use of, Reclamation lands.

**Objective LUM 4.5:** Educate the public concerning all Reclamation lands being closed to ORV use.

**Objective LUM 4.6:** Implement measures to clean up trash dumps identified on Reclamation lands and monitor to prevent future dumping.

**Objective LUM 4.7:** Ensure that siting and design of all new facilities, structures, roads, and trails on Reclamation lands maximize compatibility and integration with the open, rural environment and historic landscape of the surrounding area.

**Objective LUM 4.8:** Minimize impacts on adjacent/surrounding land uses resulting from actions undertaken on Reclamation lands.

**Objective LUM 4.9:** Address and resolve unauthorized access-related conflicts pertaining to Reclamation lands.

**Objective LUM 4.10:** Ensure that monitoring of agricultural and grazing activities is conducted to enforce compliance with lease terms.

**Objective LUM 4.11:** Restrict concentrated shooting/target practice on Reclamation lands as required by Reclamation policy.

***GOAL LUM 5: Provide informational, educational, and interpretive materials to increase public awareness of Reclamation boundaries, use restrictions, safety concerns, natural and cultural resource values, and recreational opportunities.***

**Objective LUM 5.1:** On all publicly distributed materials show the public closure area in the vicinity of Minidoka Dam.

**Objective LUM 5.2:** Using Reclamation's sign manual, develop clear, consistent signage to guide public access to and the use of Reclamation lands.

**Objective LUM 5.3:** Improve public information/awareness of Reclamation lands through better on-the-ground boundary demarcation using signage, fencing, or other means as feasible and where necessary.

**Objective LUM 5.4:** Coordinate with other agencies and entities to develop an interpretive program that illustrates the prehistoric, historic, and current land use practices, as well as natural features.

***GOAL LUM 6: Achieve timely implementation and coordination of RMP programs and projects.***

**Objective LUM 6.1:** Establish and maintain a clear phasing schedule and list of priorities for RMP implementation; and update on an annual basis.

**Objective LUM 6.2:** Seek Reclamation and managing partners (USFWS, IDPR, IDFG, Counties, etc.) joint funding to implement applicable RMP actions according to the priority list and phasing schedule.

**Objective LUM 6.3:** Keep stakeholders, surrounding landowners, Tribes and the public informed regarding the status of implementing the RMP.

## Natural Resources (NAT)

### ***GOAL NAT 1: Protect, conserve, and as funding is available enhance wildlife, vegetation, and habitat values on Reclamation lands.***

**Objective NAT 1.1:** Avoid or minimize impacts of RMP actions on Federal and State designated species of special concern, including those Federally listed rare, threatened or endangered.

**Objective NAT 1.2:** Protect and enhance resource values of and for native species (plants and animals) on parcels or portions of parcels exhibiting mainly high quality habitat (where native vegetation is dominant).

**Objective NAT 1.3:** Conserve and restore pockets of native vegetation on portions of larger parcels exhibiting mainly non-native vegetation.

**Objective NAT 1.4:** Protect, enhance, and/or create new wetland and riparian habitats on Reclamation lands in accordance with existing Federal regulations, Irrigation District needs, and wildlife habitat conservation objectives by pursuing partners for wetland development and other appropriate means.

**Objective NAT 1.5:** Develop and work with other agencies (BLM, IDFG, IDPR, and various county Weed Control Boards) to implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan for parcels within the RMP area, including: aquatic, terrestrial, and airborne (mosquitoes) noxious and invasive weed and pest problems.

**Objective NAT 1.6:** Develop and implement a comprehensive fire management plan, including agreements for fire prevention, fuels management, and land rehabilitation in an effort to protect, restore, and enhance the natural resource values of RMP lands, as well as public safety-related concerns.

**Objective NAT 1.7:** Work with IDFG to implement habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration activities on Reclamation lands managed jointly with IDFG [see LUM 3.1]

**Objective NAT 1.8:** Develop and implement a re-seeding plan for disturbed Reclamation lands.

### ***GOAL NAT 2: Protect water quality on all Reclamation lands.***

**Objective NAT 2.1:** Where appropriate, coordinate with Irrigation Districts the use of appropriate parcels for drain water management purposes.

**Objective NAT 2.2:** Manage the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides on Reclamation lands, including those leased for agricultural purposes, in a manner that does not adversely affect water quality and is consistent with State and Federal laws. [see NAT 1.5]

**Objective NAT 2.3:** Minimize the potential for pollutants to enter wetlands and the Snake River from activities on Reclamation lands.

**Objective NAT 2.4:** Provide adequate sanitation and waste management facilities at developed recreation sites (e.g., restrooms, trash containers, and RV dump stations, as appropriate) to protect water quality.

***GOAL NAT 3: Control soil erosion in priority areas where it causes concern for water quality and damage to resources and facilities.***

**Objective NAT 3.1:** Implement an effective erosion control program (standards, guidelines, and BMPs) in all construction, activities, and maintenance programs on Reclamation lands while considering program effects on other resources (natural, scenic, cultural).

## **Cultural Resources (CUL)**

***Goal CUL 1: Seek to protect and preserve cultural resources, including prehistoric and historic-period archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties.***

**Objective CUL 1.1:** In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) seek to protect National Register-eligible sites from impacts from new undertakings.

**Objective CUL 1.2:** In accordance with Section 110 of the NHPA implement proactive management of cultural resources, focusing on protecting identified resources from damage.

**Objective CUL 1.3:** Increase awareness of cultural resources compliance and protection requirements among resource management partners.

**Objective CUL 1.4:** With local partners provide opportunities for public education on area prehistory and history, including the importance of and requirements for protecting these resources.

## **Indian Sacred Sites (ISS)**

***Goal ISS 1: Comply with requirements of Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites).***

**Objective ISS 1.1:** Seek to avoid damage to Indian sacred sites (when present and identified), when avoidance is consistent with accomplishing Reclamation's mission and larger public responsibilities.



**Objective ISS 1.2:** Provide for access by traditional religious practitioners to sacred sites, when consistent with mission.

## **Indian Trust Assets (ITA)**

***Goal ITA 1: Protect and conserve Indian Trust Assets as specified in applicable Secretarial Orders.***

**Objective ITA 1.1:** Consult with appropriate tribes on actions that may affect Indian Trust Assets.

## **Recreation and Access (REC)**

***GOAL REC 1: Work with IDPR and USFWS in continuing to provide adequate facilities at Lake Walcott State Park and the surrounding area while affording the public a quality recreational experience consistent with natural and cultural resource objectives.***

**Objective REC 1.1:** Coordinate with IDPR and USFWS in development on any expansion plans to accommodate increased demand at Lake Walcott State Park.

**Objective REC 1.2:** Work with IDPR or other public non-Federal managing partner by establishing an agreement for management of the Bishop's Hole site.

**Objective REC 1.3:** Assess and where appropriate support viable concession services at the State park and/or appropriate sites; with concession management to follow Reclamation's policy.

**Objective REC 1.4:** Pursue enhancement of fishing access downstream of Minidoka Dam subject to security concerns.

***GOAL REC 2: Allow for dispersed recreational activities on Reclamation lands, consistent with Project purposes, and natural and cultural resource objectives.***

**Objective REC 2.1:** Prepare and conduct an access management plan to determine where and how (to what degree – i.e., pedestrian-only, vehicular) access will be allowed on Reclamation lands.

**Objective REC 2.2:** Continue to allow non-vehicular access on all parcels (except for those specifically closed for such use), and where appropriate improve opportunities with a non-Federal, public entity managing partner for consumptive recreational uses (i.e., hunting, fishing, and trapping), consistent with pertinent IDFG rules and regulations.

**Objective REC 2.3:** Continue to allow non-vehicular access, and where appropriate improve opportunities with a non-Federal, public entity managing partner for non-consumptive recreational uses (e.g., nature appreciation, dispersed camping, wildlife watching, etc.) on suitable parcels.

**Objective REC 2.4:** Pursue a relationship and work with a non-Federal public entity managing partner to develop feasible opportunities for developing and maintaining non-motorized recreational trails on appropriate parcels, including interpretive trails focused on natural and cultural resources, as well as tying into IDPR/FWS plans for additional trail development in the Lake Walcott area.